Consideration of the dedication of Allee Woods Nature Preserve, Parke County: corrected and restated articles of dedication

The Commission dedicated the Allee Woods Nature Preserve on May 17, 2011. Before dedication, a scrivener's error was identified in the real estate description for the nature preserve. In correcting the scrivener's error, a template used for the articles of dedication then characterized incorrectly the DNR's legal interest as a "perpetual easement" rather than a "license". "Corrected and Restated Articles of Dedication" would replace the erroneous documents. The corrections would accurately describe DNR's relationship with Wabash College and be consistent with the original intent. The Division of Nature Preserves recommends the Commission re-approve dedication of the Allee Woods Nature Preserve with these corrections.

The original agenda item, from the May 2011 Commission, is included below:

The proposed nature preserve is a 162-acre property located along Sugar Creek, near the town of Annapolis, in Parke County. This tract contains deeply dissected ravines, sandstone canyons, stands of hemlock trees, and old growth mesic upland forest. It is owned and managed by Wabash College.

Allee Woods is considered one of Indiana's highest quality natural areas. It was included in "Natural Areas in Indiana and Their Preservation" by Lindsey, Schmelz and Nichols, and given a number 1 priority rating. Allee Woods was donated to Wabash College in 1957 by the heirs of Dr. Warder C. Allee, an eminent ecologist and author.

Allee Woods is located within the project boundaries of Governor Daniel's Healthy Rivers Initiative Conservation Project. Its immediate neighbors are mossy Point Nature Preserve, owned by the Central Indiana Land Trust (CILTI) on the south, and Division of Forestry owned property on its north and east boundary.

Attached is Nature Preserves Exhibit A: map indicating the location and boundaries of Allee Woods Nature Preserve.

Allee Woods Nature Preserve

Exhibit A

County: Parke USGS Map: Montezuma quad Size: 162.0 acres Ownership: Wabash College

